

Opportunities are still available for Contribution Agreements under the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program for 2005!

Contribution Agreements can provide up to 50% of the total costs of your wildlife habitat enhancement projects, projects you already have visions of completing! All we require is:

1. Your project will result in actual wildlife habitat benefits on the land.
2. Your project be directed toward one of our existing wildlife priorities (see enclosed fact sheet), **OR any declining species or species of special concern in NJ.**
3. Your non-federal direct and indirect contributions provide 50% or more of the total cost of the project.
4. Your project can be completed within a 3-year time-frame.

Preference is given to projects involving multiple land areas/landowners and/or multiple partners, however single-site large scale projects are also feasible. Long-term management of the project accomplishments should be addressed in your proposal.

To request funding, submit a summary of your proposal that includes:

- a. background on the project purpose, goals, and habitat or species elements addressed
- b. description of what will be implemented, including location and size of project area(s)
- c. a proposed schedule for implementation
- d. specific tasks and costs involved
- e. anticipated staffing needs
- f. detailed description of partner contributions

A draft budget must be included. Include total costs for implementing the project. Costs must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable as noted below.

A. Cost Criteria: Allowable Costs for Partner's 50 Percent Contributions

A cost is allowable if it is:

- (1) Necessary and reasonable to accomplish the project.
- (2) Allowable under the applicable program authority.
- (3) Treated consistently by the applicant.
- (4) In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- (5) Not a contribution being used simultaneously with any other proposal currently submitted for similar work.
- (6) Adequately documented.
- (7) Authorized or not prohibited under State or local laws or regulations.

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B. Cost Criteria: Allocable Costs

A cost is allocable if it is treated consistently by the applicant and if it:

- (1) Is incurred specifically for the project.
- (2) Meets applicable program authority.
- (3) Is necessary to accomplish the plan of work specific to the project, but not to the overall operation of the applicant or where no direct relationship to the project can be tracked.

C. Cost Criteria: Reasonable Costs

A cost is reasonable if the nature or amount does not exceed what a prudent person, given the same circumstance, would expect to incur.

More information on Contribution Agreements can be found at:

http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/H/H_120_610_Content.htm.

NRCS will be evaluating all proposals received prior to July 15, 2005 for funding this year. However, this is not a formal Request for Proposals. There is no deadline for application; all proposals will be reviewed on their individual merit as they are received.

Examples of previously funded projects include

- A county school district looking to develop multiple outdoor classrooms.
- A state agency needing additional resources to develop habitat for threatened butterfly species.
- A non-profit currently working with landowners to develop and manage grassland bird sites uses federal funds to extend the reach of their program.

All proposals should be submitted to:

Janice Reid, Assistant State Conservationist – Programs
220 Davidson Avenue 4th Floor
Somerset NJ 08873

Direct any questions you may have about this opportunity to either:

Janice Reid, ASTC(P), janice.reid@nj.usda.gov, (732) 537-6042

Betsy Clarke, Biologist, elizabeth.clarke@nj.usda.gov, (609) 561-3223

Tim Dunne, Biologist, tim.dunne@nj.usda.gov, (908) 735-0737 ext.104